Schemes for supplementary employment to the farmers

472. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of various schemes to provide supplementary employment to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): A statement indicating the details of various schemes to provide supplementary employment to the farmers is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Supplementary employment to farmers is provided through wage employment and self employment schemes taken up in the rural areas. The wage employment schemes are taken up under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and National Rural Employment Programme. The self employment is provided to the rural poor through Integrated Rural Development Programme. These programmes are sponsored by the Central Government. The brief details about the programmes are as under:—

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP)

This programme is fully funded by the Central Government and has been launched in all States/UTs. with the objective of improving and expanding employment opportunities, particularly for the rural landless labour, and creating productive and durable assets for strengthening rural infrastructure leading to rise in the employment opportunities and income levels of the rural poor. Preference under the programme is given to rural landless labourers. Among the rural landless, preference is given to women, SC and STs for employment.

Under the programme, work projects are formulated and submitted by the State Govts. to Central Government for approval by a Committee at the Central level. Only economically productive works relevant to 20-20-point programme and Minimum Needs Programme can be taken up for implementation. Construction of of houses for SCs/STs and freed bonded labourers (Indira Awaas Yojana) and construction of primary school buildings in revenue villages having sanctioned schools but not having buildings of their own have also been permitted as exceptions under the programme.

Employment is given to the poor farmers, particularly the rural landless, in the form of cash and foodgrains under the programme. A minimum of 50 per cent component in the work projects has to be in the form of wages to be distributed to the workers as fixed under the Minimum Wages Act. Funds are earmarked for undertaking works on social forestry, construction of houses for SC and STs. and freed bonded labourers (under Indira Awaas Yojana) construction of rural sanitary latrines. A minimum of 10 per cent allocations under the programme are to be spent on works benefitting SCs and STs. Contratcors are not permitted to be engaged for execution of works under this programme.

National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)

The National Rural Employment Programme has been launched with the objective of generating additional gainful employment for rural unemployed and under-employed (persons, both men and women in the rural areas) and creating productive assets which lead to growth in the rural economy and steady rise in the income levels of the rural poor. Preference is given under the programme to landless labour in employment in all the works.

This programme funded on 50:50 sharing basis between the Centre and the State. At the district level the entire work relating to Planning, monitoring and implementation of the

programme is the responsibility of District Rural Development Agencies. Under the programme, at least 50 per cent expenditure is required to be incurred on payment of wages to workers. The work projects are required to be approved at the DRDA level itself. Only economically productive works (relevant to 20-point programme and Minimum Needs Programme) can be taken up under the programme. Construction of houses for SCs/STs and freed bonded labourers and construction of primary school buildings in revenue villages having sanctioned schools but not buildings of their own have been permitted as exceptions under the programme. The payment of wages to workers is made partly in cash and partly in foodgrains. The implementing agencies are required to give wages to workers as fixed under the Minimum Wages Act. 25 per cent funds under the programme are earmarked for taking up social forestry works and 10 per cent funds for works benefitting the SCs and STs.

Foodgrains as part of wages

Under the twin programmes of NREP/RLEGP, foodgrains at highly subsidised rates for the workers are provided as part of the wages. If the distribution of foodgrains is more than 1 Kg. per manday, the entire burden on account of this is borne by the Union Government. On account of this, the state share in the case of NREP works out to much less than 50 per cent.

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

The target group of IRDP consists of small and marginal farmers along with agriculture labourers, rural artisans and others whose annual family income is below the cut-of point of Rs. 4800/- opportunities of self employment are provided to the target group in rural areas by providing income generating assets through combination of subsidy and term credit, so that with the supplementary income from the assets, family income crosses the poverty lines of Rs. 6400.00 per annum. Any viable economic activity matching the need and aptitude of the family and the local resources profile can be undertaken under this programme.

Construction of godowns in rural area

473. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct some more godowns in rural areas where farmers could store their produce; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Department of Rural Development is implementing the scheme for setting up of rural godowns through the State Governments/UTs. The Central assistance is released to the State Governments/UTs, for the construction of rural godowns. Under this scheme the target is to create additoonal storage capacity of 20 lakh tonnes in the rural areas during the 7th plan period. 3992 rural godowns with a storage capacity of 21,33,581 MTs. have been sanctioned so far since the inception of the scheme (1979-80). Further, National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC) is also assisting the Cooperative Sector under various schemes for construction of rural godowns. Till 31st March, 1987, NCDC sanctioned assistance to Cooperatives for construction of 50415 rural and 8558 marketing godowns with a capacity of 115.01 lakh tonnes, of which 45280 rural and 7246 marketing godowns with a storage capacity of 94.25 lakh tonnes have been completed in different States/UTs.

Testing of Imported Seeds before Use

474. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: